

Spanish Power Grows

I. Charles V Inherits Two Crowns

A. Ruling the Hapsburg empire

1. Spain
2. Holy Roman Empire and Netherlands

B. Charles V abdicates

1. Charles enters monastery in 1556 and divides empire.
2. Gives brother Ferdinand Hapsburg lands in central Europe
3. Gives Spain and Netherlands to his son Philip

II. Philip II Solidifies Power

A. Centralizing power

1. Philip II reigns as an absolute monarch.
2. Rules by divine right

B. Battles in the Mediterranean and the Netherlands

1. Philip fights wars to advance Spanish Catholic power.

2. Protestant provinces of the Netherlands declare their independence.

C. The armada sails against England

1. Philip considers Elizabeth I of England his enemy.
2. Spanish armada is defeated.

D. An empire declines

1. During the 1600s, Spain's strength and prosperity decrease.
2. Philip's successors are less able.
3. Wars are costly.
4. Loss of Muslims and Jews means fewer artisans and merchants.
5. American gold and silver leads to inflation.

Spanish Power Grows (cont.)

III. Spain's Golden Age

- A. 1550–1650 is referred to as *Siglo de Oro*, or “golden century.”
- B. El Greco produces religious pictures and portraits of Spanish nobles.
- C. Velázquez paints Spanish royalty.
- D. Lope de Vega writes comedies and romances.
- E. Miguel de Cervantes writes the classic *Don Quixote*.